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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

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Father Darkleaf

BY
CALVIN ROBINSON

To some of us, February seems to be the longest month of the year. The calendar says I am writing this on Monday, the seventh, but that is hard to realize, for this is a long winter. The weather report says that we will get a bit of a warming trend, but this morning when I checked the thermometer on my back porch it was colder here in "the sunny South" of Martha Street than they reported in New York City. Wearing extra clothing has helped. We are reasonably warm. We will make it, and so will you.

* * *

Through experience, senior citizens have learned to adjust, even though often they are the hardest hit. I made a note to say that Stephen Collins Foster's famous song, "Old Folks at Home" may not have been so popular if he had named it "Senior Citizens at Home." And regardless of one's age, Appomattox is a good place to live.

* * *

And I figured I could write about how it was in the one-room grade school I attended at Locust Dale, in Madison County, Va., around 1915-17. There were nine of us, Calvin, Arthur, Clarence, and Lester, and Ruth, Lillian, Kathleen and Corrie. A wood stove and a water bucket. I do not remember a blackboard, but we had our own slates, a pencil box and a few sheets of paper. The boys took turns being responsible for getting the fire started each morning in a tin heater. I used to ramble in the nearby woods after school to round up a few lightwood knots for kindling when my day came around. The girls took turns walking to a home half a mile away with the water bucket. Our teacher, "Miss Molly" taught us soundly and we could sing the alpahbet, knew the multiplication table backwards and forward, mastered such words as Prairie and Mississippi in spelling bees, carved our initials on the long wooden desks. The "athletic equipment" consisted of one homemade baseball and several trees used in playing "prisoner's base." Ah yes, and we brought our lunch along. Mine was a couple of bisquits, one with sausage and the other with jelly. Maybe an apple. I never was a scholar of first rank, but from a good start I had no trouble afterwards in making it through high school and college.

* * *

Change of pace....The Montreal Expos begin baseball's spring training February 21. I have no idea what my longtime favorite New York Yankess will have this year in the way of talent, but they open April 7, with Milwaukee as the opponent.

* * *

More change of pace: arthritis is more active in cold weather. After a year of parole, my off-and-on arthritis selected my left arm for a demonstration Not too bad, however, for here I am typing. No complaint.

* * *

A friend sent me a copy of Homelife Magazine, published in Nashville, and I read every article, even a page of jokes and comment. Example: "If you learn about history, you are a historian. If you learn from history, you are a wise person."

* * *

Valentine's Day is coming up. As for me, I picked "my Valentine" many years ago and have always been proud of my selection.

* * *

And I am proud, too, that this growing newspaper in a growing town is a welcomed weekly visitor in your home. Lots of good reading each week, and that includes the advertisements. Thanks for reading this time around and seeya next week.

Special Olympics Winners

A group of students from Appomattox County High School participated in the Winter Basketball Competition for Special Olympsics at Lynchburg College on Saturday, Feb. 5. All students received a participation medal; each student was grouped according to age and ability.

Shown above are the winners: First row- Alvin Walker, second place; Shelia Goode, first place; Debra Dixon, first place; Gail Ragland, first place. Second row - Ivan Abbitt, second place; Lawrence Lewis, second place; and J. C. Davidson, second place. Congratulations to all the winners!

The group wishes to express their appreciation to Betty Williams, Linda Taylor, Mrs. Ragland, Mrs. Johnson, Sheena Watts, and Doretha Walker for their assistance on the trip.

Appomattox - Buckingham Counties Top In Sales Receipts From Virginia Fibre Corporation

Listed below is the total dollar volume of wood purchased by Virginia Fibre Corporation for the week ending January 30, 1977. Purchases are listed by counties:

Albermarle	$ 1,239.12
Amelia	484.33
Amherst	5,913.36
Appomattox	8,734.77
Augusta	
Bedford County	1,408.41
Buckingham	13,755.56
Prince William	826.43
Campbell	3,124.20
Charlotte	5,106.20
Cumberland	3,526.41
Goochland	
Nelson	8,348.73
New Kent	3,330.08
Pittsylvania	1,894.54
Prince Edward	2,309.87

It is interesting to note that Buckingham County and Appomattox County ranked first and second respectively in wood sales to Virginia Fibre Corporation for the calendar year 1976.

Buckingham County supplied 22,263.84 cords of hardwood and received approximately $572,000.00 in sales receipts while Appomattox County supplied 17,227.54 cords and received approximately $442,000.00 in sales receipts.

County Farmers Part Of Nationwide Survey

U. S. farmers spent almost $82 billion in 1975 to raise crops, livestock, and poultry, according to a recent estimate by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Virginia Crop Reporting Service.

Production expenditure information is a major ingredient determining net farm income and is used as a guide in computing the parity index and other factors about the farmer's position in the national economy.

Danny Johnson of the Virginia Crop Reporting Service will be contacting several farmers in Appomattox County during February in an effort to establish production expenditure levels for 1976. Along with questions concerning most production goods and services purchased, the survey will ask for details about farmers' marketing practices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum as a further aid in estimating farm income. Some producers will be asked a series of questions about their use of pesticides on crops and with livestock.

Danny Johnson added that all answers secured during the interviews will be confidential and only State and national summaries will be published.

Bondurant Honored By Farmers

During the banquet session of the State Young Farmers Convention, Jimmy Bondurant, a member of the Appomattox Young Farmers Association won the $2500 Brandon Silo Award. The award was made by Mr. J. F. Brandon, III, president of the Brandon Silo Corporation. The award will be used by Jimmy toward the purchase of an upright silo on his farm.

Jimmy owns a beef farm in Appomattox County. In partnership with his father, the Bondurant's raise over 200 head of beef cattle. Presently Jimmy stores his silage in a trench silo and in silos on leased land.

Bondurant feels that up upright silo on his farm would do much to improve the efficiency of his farming operation.

National FBLA Week

Judy Ayers and Terri Davis eagerly watch as Mayor Pack signs the Certificate of Recognition proclaiming February 6-11 as National Future Business Leaders of America Week. Both Judy and Terri are members of the local FBLA Chapter and are actively involved in chapter activities. FBLA is an outgrowth of the business classroom. During 1975-76, over $100,000 was raised for the March of Dimes by the FBLA'ers in Virginia. The Appomattox FBLA Chapter has 80 members.

65 Calls Answered By Local Rescue Squad

During the month of January of 1977, volunteer members of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad responded to a total of 65 emergency calls. With chest pains, breathing difficulty and heart attacks, ten persons were on the heart monitor en route to the hospital. In three automobile accidents, one person was dead on arrival, one was not injured and three were treated for personal injury.

Members spent 288 hours in answering the calls and traveled a total of 3375 miles.

A breakdown of the calls is as follows: dead on arrival, 2; chest pains, 4; heart attacks, 7; illness, 7; fight, 2; falls, 5; breathing difficulty, 2; broken bones, 2; gun shot wounds, 2; sled accidents, 3; diabetic, 1; transports by doctor's request, 12; stroke, 1; nose bleed, 3; maternity, 2; wrecks, 3; stabbing, 1; over dose, 2; home accident, 1; convulsion, 1; cuts, 1; and miscarriage, 1.

In addition to responding to emergency calls, three instructors gave one CPR Course to interested citizens.

Local Family Leader Of Tomorrow Announced

Lisa F. Dickerson, of Appomattox High School, has been named as 1977 General Mills Family Leader of Tomorrow. The student won the honor by scoring highest in the school in a written knowledge and attitude examination administered to high school seniors here and throughout the country Dec. 7. The Family Leader will receive a certificate from General Mills, sponsor of the annual Search for Leadership in Family Living, and will now be considered for state and national honors.

From the ranks of all school winners in the state, a State Family Leader of Tomorrow will be selected through judging centered on test performance and will receive a $1,500 college scholarship. The second-ranking student in the state will receive a $500 scholarship. Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation will present "The Annals of America," a 20-volume reference work, to the state winner's school.

Representing every state and the District of Columbia, the 51 General Mills Family Leaders of Tomorrow will gather in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, in April for an expense-paid educational tour there and in Washington, D.C. During the tour, personal observations and interviews will be conducted to select the All-American Family Leader of Tomorrow, who will receive a $5,000 college scholarship. Second, third and fourth place national winners receive scholarships increased to $4,000, $3,000 and $2,000, respectively.

The test, personal observations and interviews are all prepared and conducted by Science Research Associates of Chicago.

Adult Education Classes To Open

It is anticipated that adult education classes, closed last week because of the energy emergency, will be back in operation beginning Monday night, Feb. 14. Persons who have registered for a class are requested to report to that class on the night originally scheduled. Persons who have not registered, but would like to take an adult class, are requested to come to the class next week. Some classes such as typing, auto mechanics, bricklaying, art, and woodworking may not be offered unless enrollments increase. Anyone desiring information on adult education classes is requested to contact R. B. Carter, Coordinator, at 352-8253.

Crumbs For Thought

By Zeke:

Often we look at a successful person and, without proper information think that he or she has it "made". The old proverb attributed to "Poor Richard" that "grass across the fence is greener" could be updated to read "The grass may look greener next door, but it is just as hard to cut." We often judge without proper knowledge. The writer of Proverbs says:

"Wise men lay up knowledge but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction." Prov. 10:1A

Local Families Carrying More Insurance

Mayor Pack Names February American Heart Month In County

In a proclamation issued today, Mayor H. B. Pack designated February American Heart Month and urged all residents of Appomattox to support the 1977 Heart Campaign to be conducted across America.

The Mayor asked support for efforts of the Appomattox Heart Campaign in fighting the nation's Number One Killer, cardiovascular diseases. He said these diseases claim more than 950,000 lives each year and account for over one-half of the deaths from all causes.

During American Heart Month, Appomattox volunteers will join more than two million volunteers nationwide to distribute heart-saving information and collect funds for research, educational and community projects dedicated to combating diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

The text of the Mayor's proclamation reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, heart and blood vessel diseases this year will kill 950,000 Americans, a total which exceeds all other causes of death combined, and,

"WHEREAS, more than five out of every six of these victims die of heart attack or stroke, and,

"WHEREAS, cardiovascular diseases cost the nation over $26.7 billion this year in lost output due to disability and medical expense, and,

"WHEREAS, the Heart Association's relentless battle against this American epidemic has helped reduce the death rate from these diseases through advances in research, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation,

"NOW THEREFORE I A. B. Pack, Mayor, proclaim the month of February as American Heart Month and urge all our citizens to support the Heart Campaign of the Appomattox Heart Association in their fight for our lives. Gifts and voluntary service will speed more advances in the conquest of the scourge of heart and blood vessel diseases, our nation's leading killer and disabler."

Residents of Appomattox County are beginning the year 1977 with more financial protection in the form of life insurance than ever before. The amount of coverage, per local family, is greater than in many parts of the country.

In addition to this safeguard, local residents have been protecting themselves in other ways--by increasing their savings by keeping their debts under control and by maintianing their health, accident and household insurance.

In particular, however, because of the uncertainties of the times, they have been adding to their life insurance coverage in the last few years.

As a result, Appomattox County residents now have an estimated $76,810,000 in life insurance holdings.

Details on the number of policyholders and their participation are given for each of the states and for the United States as a whole by the Department of Commerce and the American Council of Life Insurance.

They show that the amount if force throughout the nation is a a new high--$2,140 billion.

In the State of Virginia alone, according to the findings, the total is $52.8 billion. It compares with $32.2 billion five years ago.

Not included in this is insurance provided by the government for Federal employees, armed services personnel.

In general, it is noted, there is a direct relationship between a family's income and the amount of insurance it carries. For the average family in the state, it is equal to 23.9 months of income, after taxes.

Applied to Appomattox County and to the average income reported for its area, life insurance locally comes to approximately $22,460 per family.

That is more than is held in many communities and is about twice as much as most families had ten years ago.

The figures show that some 145 million people in the United States, or about 68 percent of the population, are now covered. Ordinary life insurance continues to be the type held by most of them. Next in point of volume is group insurance.

Taxpayers Want Governor Pay Hike Stopped

The Virginia Taxpayers Association recently charged Gov. Mills Godwin with "gross nonfeasance for permitting the state to add 3,800 more employees to the payroll at a time of budget deficit" and called on the General Assembly to stop an "intolerable" $10,000 governor salary increase to 50,000, "third highest in the country."

The state taxpayer organization declared "the governor knew the state's budget was on shaky ground and that more expenditure cuts would likely be needed, yet he totally failed to prevent the payroll from mushrooming.

"A still further deplorable fact is that no state official even knew where all the 3,800 employees had been added in the last six months of 1976. This hopelessly sloppy record-keeping is additional evidence of fat and waste in state government which taxpayers will no longer support. The General Assembly has got to start using a sharp knife immediately."

The VTA noted that the present $50,000 governor's salary "is already tied for fifth highest in the country, although Virginia ranks only 13th in population. And only two large states, New York and Texas, pay more than $60,000, which the General Assembly is planning to pay our governor beginning in January, 1978. Even though Godwin himself doesn't get the increase, he didn't object to it, and at a time of financial crunch, why should hard-pressed taxpayers fork over such a salary to a person whose identity we don't even know?"

The VTA also objected to increasing the lieutenant governor's salary 53 per cent from $10,525 to $16,000 "for a part-time job", and the attorney general's pay from $37,500 to $45,000 at the same time. The taxpayers said "the fact the General Assembly is thinking in these terms today shows how completely out of touch they are with voters' needs."

The VTA strongly criticized Godwin also for "going along with further extension of the mamoth Metro tax boondoggle in northern Virginia, which he knows we can never pay for, in order to get Route I-66 completed into Washington. Yet he has committed $40 million from the state in land and construction work for more wasteful Metro."

Referring to the 2,523 employees at Lynchburg Training School and Hospital, which has only 2,356 patients, the VTA said "administrative employee featherbedding at LTSH is a positive scandal, yet the director of this state institution, defending himself on television against earlier VTA critism, said the number of his employees was mandated by the General Assembly as well as by the federal government and could not be reduced.

"But Virginians know there's a growing tax revolt under way in this country, and there's no reason why we should put up any longer with government

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Lions Club To Meet Tonight

The Lions Club of Appomattox will meet tongiht, Thursday, at 6:45 p.m. at Maudes Restaurant.

John M. White, State Chairmany of Youth Exchange and Rumulus Sanders, Jr., District 24 Youth Exchange Chairman, will be guest speakers for the evening. Their topic will be on Youth Exchange.

All members will want to be present for this meeting.

Any wives interested in hearing the program are invited to attend and to be present at 7:30 p.m.

Park Announces New Hours

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park announced last week that they would be closed on Monday and Tuesday of each week during February in cooperation with Governor Godwin's Emergency Executive Order.

On Tuesday of this week, the Park Service announced that they would be closed Monday and Tuesday, February 14 and 15 only and after these dates they will be open seven days a week.

JOHN C. CALDWELL, Commissioner of Revenue for Appomattox County who retired February 1, 1977, was honored Monday afternoon in the Court House Building with a reception given by friends at the Court House.

W. M.Abbitt, Sr., local attorney and Representative of the 4th Congressional District, retired, is shown above presenting Caldwell with a gift of a desk lamp in recognition of his 17 years of service to the people of our county. Caldwell assumed the duties of Commissioner of Revenue, Appomattox County effective January 1, 1960 and retired February 1, 1977.

Cake and punch were served at the reception attended by friends and fellow workers. Mrs. Ida H. Campbell, Mrs. Marian Williamson, and Mrs. Norma Moore assisted in caring for the guests.

Monte W. Mays has been appointed to take over the duties of Commissioner of Revenue, replacing John C. Caldwell. He assumed the duties of this position February 1, 1977.

Supplement to:
The Times Virginian